

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A freestanding particle comprising 2 to 50 segments, wherein the particle length is from 20 nm to 50 μm and the particle width is from 5 nm to 50 μm , and
wherein at least one segment is comprised of a metal selected from the group consisting of: silver, gold, copper, nickel, palladium, platinum, cobalt, rhodium and iridium.
2. (Original) The particle of claim 1, wherein the particle length is from 500 nm - 30 μm .
3. (Original) The particle of claim 1, wherein the particle length is from 1 - 15 μm .
4. (Original) The particle of claim 1, wherein the particle width is from 10 nm - 2 μm .
5. (Original) The particle of claim 1, wherein the particle width is from 30 nm to 500 nm.
6. (cancelled)
7. (Original) The particle of claim 1, comprised of 2 - 10 different types of segments.

8. (Original) The particle of claim 1, wherein the lengths of said segments is from 1 nm to 50 μm .

9. (Currently amended) The particle of claim 1, wherein the lengths of at least one of said segments is from 50 nm to 15 μm .

10. (Currently amended) The particle of claim 1, wherein the particle length is from 1 - 15 μm , the particle width is from 30 nm to 2 μm , and the lengths of at least one of said segments are from 50 nm to 15 μm .

11. - 14. (cancelled).

15. (Previously presented) A freestanding particle comprising 2 to 50 segments, wherein the particle length is from 20 nm to 50 μm , and the particle width is from 5 nm to 50 μm , and wherein at least one of said segments is comprised of a superparamagnetic compound.

16. (Previously presented) A freestanding particle comprising 2 to 50 segments, wherein the particle length is from 20 nm to 50 μm , and the particle width is from 5 nm to 50 μm , and wherein said particle can function as an electronic device or as part of an electronic device.

17. (Original) The particle of claim 16 wherein said electronic device or part of an electronic device is selected from the group consisting of a conductor, or diode, a transistor, a wire, a capacitor, a resistor, a negative differential resistance device, a resonant tunneling diode, a ferroelectric switch, a shift register and a delay line.

18. - 86. (cancelled)

87. (Previously presented) The particle of claim 1, wherein the particle length is from 1 - 15 μm , the particle width is from 2 μm to 50 μm , and the lengths of said segments are from 50 nm to 15 μm .